



## Marden High School

Friday 4th October 2019

Dear All,

Following the very successful Open Evening last week, we have had a number of Open Day events this week, with visitors looking around the school, talking to students and staff, and going into lessons. It has been great to hear more positive feedback about the enthusiasm and welcoming nature of our staff and the focus and friendliness of our students. As ever, visitors commented on the calm, purposeful atmosphere within school.

Some of our Year 7 children have now started their 'Catch-up' sessions where, alongside their usual maths and English lessons, they are part of the Maths mentoring programme. This allows for more immediate interventions, and, working with and encouraged by their Year 11 mentors, they receive support personalised to each student. As with previous years, we are confident that this will accelerate their progress so that they will be better able to fully access the curriculum.

This week we celebrated National Poetry Day, looking at some of our favourite poems and how they enhance our reading and thinking in such a special way. One particular writer has suggested that "poetry at its best calls forth our deep *being*. It dares us to break free from the safe strategies of the cautious mind; it calls to us, from an open sky. Some say it is a magical art, a making of language spells designed to open our eyes, open our doors and welcome us into a bigger world, one of possibilities we may never have dared to dream of." Poetry can also teach us the value of choosing our words carefully, teach us to own our words, by developing in us the ability to make our words impactful, whilst having total control over them - an important lesson for everybody. In addition to celebrating poetry in classrooms this week we have a poetry competition for all our students to partake in, with some big House Point prizes. We look forward to reading the entries.

Our attendance rates continue to be high, at 96% overall, so well done to all students who have either maintained their high standards or improved their attendance. We will be celebrating this good attendance in assemblies at the end of the half term, and we are looking for students to continue to make every effort to be in school, even when they may not be feeling 100%.

On Wednesday this week we were pleased to welcome many of our Year 7 parents into the school for the Settling in Evening. This is always a pleasant event and very useful for all concerned as we get to know our new parents and build that partnership between home and school which we know will lead to success for our children. Certainly the new Year 7 cohort have settled into school well and have already impressed many of their teachers with their enthusiasm. From a personal point of view, it has been encouraging to meet quite a number

of them coming to my office to receive their Headteacher's Awards for Work of the Week. Success is about partnership, and this comes from good open communication between home and school, so whilst we have a number of formalised parent-teacher evenings, as always, I would encourage any parent to get in touch with us by phone or email should they wish to talk about their child's progress.

This week were the first fixtures in the girls U14 football league for schools in North Tyneside. The girls showed great character and spirit in the two twenty minute games that they played, managing to beat a strong Monkseaton High team 4-0, and unfortunately losing 7-4 to North Gosforth. The girls played really well and it is a steady start to the league. The next round of fixtures are at the end of November

The boys Year 9 team played their first game of the season and were narrowly defeated at St Thomas More, 2-1. This has given coach and team some clear targets for improvement for the next games.

In U16 Netball we had two teams playing their first league games of the season against Whitley Bay. Although they lost their matches 7-3 and 12-2, the players performed well and supported each other in their games showing great teamwork and resilience.

In badminton in the North Tyneside league Year 10 'A' team won both their games, with the 'B' team and the Year 9 team both winning one and losing one. Well done to all who participated and represented the school.

The year 9 netballers had a fantastic evening at John Spence this week, winning 17-10, as did the Year 7 boys rugby team, winning the Kingston Park tournament in fine style.

At Marden we value the moments and interactions we have with each other, and we are mindful of using the time we have together, for everybody's benefit. We accept people for who they are, which means that at Marden people, students and staff, can be themselves, each able to express their unique personality. At Marden we are kind to one another, and we look out for each other. The small size of our school and the commitment of staff give it a family feel, and that is important because at times the world can feel like a challenging place, and we all need support at times in our lives. It is the Marden values of respect for each other, kindness to everyone, and strong community which should help us all to navigate through those times so that all our children can enjoy and be successful in their time at school.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher